

Bridget O'Keefe

From: Gregory Shepler <gregoryshepler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Bridget O'Keefe
Subject: Fwd: Redistricting Comm. Question

[WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Bridget (& Diane),

Here is the second (& final) public comment shared with me. Again, both of the emails I'm sharing were submitted after our last meeting, thus that is why I did not include them until the d-line for comments was recently extended & announced by Bridget (BTW, thanks for that email!). This 2nd email is from Ben Traverse who is on the Ward 5 Steering Committee. Ben also recently announced that he would be running for City Council (although his comments below predate his candidacy announcement, as he states in his email).

Thanks again to BOTH of you for keeping our committee organized!

carry on,
gs

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ben Traverse <bentraverse@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 11:06 PM
Subject: Re: Redistricting Comm. Question
To: Gregory Shepler <gregoryshepler@gmail.com>
Cc: Kolby LaMarche <kolbylamarche@gmail.com>

Greg,

I'm sorry I wasn't able to get back to you prior to this past Wednesday. To the extent further feedback is still helpful, please see below. I am on the Ward 5 NPA steering committee. In full transparency, I've also recently announced I'll be running for the City Council from Ward 5. My opinions on redistricting predated this announcement.

My general take is that given the volunteer nature of City Council positions, I think it is very helpful that every Burlingtonian be represented by at least two Councilors. Whether through expanding the Council to multiple Councilors per ward, or through maintaining the ward/district model, I view having multiple representatives as advantageous to Councilors and residents alike. For residents, it allows multiple avenues to secure answers and assistance from policymakers. For Councilors, it allows for tag teaming community engagement (e.g., NPA meetings, Front Porch Forum posts, community events, etc.).

Thanks to you and Kolby for your contributions to this matter. I look forward to the results of your important work.

Ben

On Tue, Dec 14, 2021 at 10:22 AM Gregory Shepler <gregoryshepler@gmail.com> wrote:

Ben,

At the last NPA meeting, you shared some insightful comments near the end of the meeting on redistricting in general & the CC in particular. I was wondering if you were interested (& had the time?) to summarize those comments in an email? The RC is meeting this Wednesday evening (our last official meeting) with the goal of summarizing public comments. My notes from that meeting indicate that you supported the idea of increasing the size of CC because they were overloaded with issues, were not professional legislators, had other jobs, ect.... I also thought I heard you say you supported a single district w/city-wide elections (although my notes were fuzzy on that). Regardless, your written comments would be appreciated & your role as a "NPA staff organizer" (not sure of your official title), would carry credibility. Your fellow NPA mate Joe D. recently submitted some comments to me. Please realize that I would be submitting your comments "as is" to CEDO & those comments would become part of the public deliberative process as the RC moves forward summarizing public comments & suggestions to the CC.

Thanks for considering this! Contact me or Kolby (Ward 5 alternate & cc'ed here) as needed.

carry on!

gs